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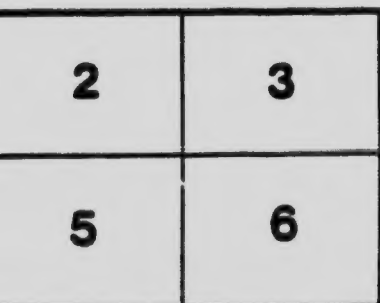
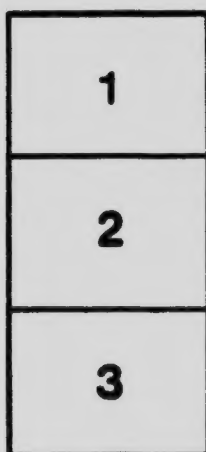
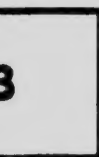
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# Leading Liberal M.P. Strongly Endorses Borden Government

Dr. Michael Clark (Red Deer)  
vigorously repudiates tactics  
of the Liberal Opposition  
in House of Commons

Deplores Petty Partisan Criticism and  
pays an eloquent tribute to  
Sir Robert Borden

Ottawa Liberal Paper declares Dr. Clark has  
done a great public service in so rebuking  
members of his own party

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# LEADING LIBERAL M.P. STRONGLY ENDORSES BORDEN GOVERNMENT

Dr. Michael Clark (Red Deer) vigorously repudiates  
tactics of the Liberal Opposition  
in House of Commons

Powerful endorsement of the Borden Government's conduct of the war was spoken in Parliament on the night of May 1st by Dr. Michael Clark, the sturdy Radical-Liberal from Red Deer. Sweeping away considerations of petty partisanship, Dr. Clark paid generous tribute to the Government's achievements, placed himself squarely behind the administration "till victory rests upon our banner," and rebuked with subtle but biting sarcasm the critics in the ranks of his own party. In words of solemn beauty he extolled the heroism of Canadians at the front, and, turning to his followers, applied to them the language of the poet:

"A man must serve his time to every trade  
But censure—critics all are ready-made."

Dr. Clark's words profoundly impressed the House. After a series of speeches pitched in a low key, his sturdy four-square eloquence came like the proverbial water-fall on a barren desert. Electrified by a passionate but stately speech the Conservatives cheered wildly. Stung by the scathing rebuke of their tactics by one of their own associates, members of the Opposition sat in significant silence. For no one can impeach the Liberalism of Dr. Clark. He is of the British Liberal school, sat at the feet of Gladstone and Morley in days gone by. But since the beginning of the war he has cast aside the prejudices and passions of party, viewed only the war, viewed it steadily and viewed it whole. Two of his sons are enrolled under the Empire's banner; one is among the last brave remnants of the Princess Pats.

## Dr. Clark's Speech

Dr. Clark's speech was as follows:

"I intervene in this discussion with some reluctance, because I have a very great question in my mind as to whether this discussion should really be taking place. I think, Sir, there is room for grave doubt whether we are not losing our sense of proportion in the greatest crisis that has ever been passed through by this country, by this Empire, by the world, and by the world's prospects of the advance of civilization. I intervene from a

for a moment to have a seat in Parliament, I have no time for criticism. My talk, and such effort as I am able to exert, have been from the beginning behind the clear-eyed purpose of the Prime Minister, and they are so now; and so, I believe, are the thoughts and efforts of the people of Canada. For I do believe this: that whatever criticisms are to be offered, whatever reputations are to be made or lost, this is not the time for these things. This is the time to stand under the flag that we all love, and for the greatest cause that ever animated our people and our people's allies, and behind a Government of whom history will record that, on the whole, it has done well. It is for us to stand for that cause and under that flag until victory rests upon our banners. It is because the people of this country believe that the Prime Minister and his Government and the majority of his supporters have taken that attitude and are determined to occupy it to the end, with a single eye to victory for a cause that far transcends the squabbles of party—it is because the people believe this, that I believe they are behind the Government until the war is won.”

## Dr. Clark's Rebuke Will End A Shameful Campaign

The rebuke administered to the Opposition by Dr. Clark spells the end of a campaign which has brought upon Liberalism nothing but shame.

The sincere patriotism of the member for Red Deer revolted against the pro-German methods pursued by his colleagues from Sir Wilfrid Laurier down. The best that can be said of those methods is that they disclosed indifference to the safety of the Empire and the future of Canada. It is not necessary to say, and Dr. Clark does not say, that these methods have been pursued with the deliberate intention of aiding the enemy. **It is enough to say that the Liberal parliamentary campaign could not have been more harmful to the allied cause if it had been prompted by German money instead of by the desperate dictation of a reckless partisanship.**

That the conduct of the Opposition since the war began has not had the support of the better sort of Liberalism in Canada, everybody knew. That there would be found in parliament some Liberal with the conscience and the courage to repudiate the work of the Opposition as a whole had been the hope of every decent Canadian. It was due to the great effort in which the nation is engaged, to the thousands of true Canadians who are in battle, and to the memory of the dead.

Dr. Michael Clark realized that hope, and has, in so doing, rendered a signal service to the state.

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**Forceful, Moderate and Sincere.**

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Dr. Clark has two sons at the front. He has never countenanced the Liberal attempt to divert the energies of the Government to the disadvantage of the nation's military effort. From no other man in Parliament could such a speech have come with a greater force or better grace. Yet there was no bitterness in it. It was the more forceful in that it was moderate, while being none the less earnest and none the less eloquent.

The occasion itself was eminently proper. The House of Commons was engaged in consideration of the Prime Minister's resolution providing for a war appropriation of \$250,000,000.

A House untainted would have passed that resolution without debate.

Nobody who has followed the course of the Opposition expected that this would be done--and it was not done. **Instead the resolution was made the peg upon which to hang the usual unsightly cluster of petty criticisms based in many cases upon rumor and in others upon the fictions of Liberal newspapers.** The men who took the most active part in this sort of thing were members of that little band of Liberal blockers from the Maritime Provinces, which includes Carvell. There were E. M. Macdonald of Pictou, J. J. Hughes of Kings, P.E.I., and A. B. Copp of Westmoreland. And they afterwards found champions and defenders in Frank Oliver and George P. Graham.

## **"Hats Off to Dr. Clark!" Declares a Leading Liberal Paper**

The day following, the Ottawa Free Press, the Liberal organ in the Capital, came out with a vigorous endorsement of the stand taken by Dr. Clark. In a remarkable editorial the Free Press said:—

### **DR. MICHAEL CLARK'S STRIKING SPEECH**

"Hats off to Dr. Michael Clark, M.P., for Red Deer, Alberta. He has, by the sounding of a clear ringing note of statesmanship, brought honor to his constituency, to his province, to the country of his adoption, and to himself. He has done an inestimable service for Canada. His speech should be circulated broadcast throughout this land by Liberals and Conservatives alike. Hansard and the printing presses of the Government Printing Bureau have never been employed to

a better purpose than in spreading at the present time the declaration of principles that ought to govern every Britisher. As Dr. Michael Clark says, can people were fast losing a proper sense of proportion. **Stamped by partisan politicians, and partisan newspapers, vital essentials were being forgotten in the discussion of comparatively trivial things.**"

"It must not be imagined that it was an easy thing for Dr. Clark to do what he has done. For saying less this paper has **been branded with treachery.** A member of Parliament of the standing

strict sense of duty, and because **I think it would be unfortunate that a vote of this magnitude in connection with a war of this magnitude, should pass without a note of clear support of the Government at this crisis, coming from this side of the House.**"

"I come from a province where up to the present moment we have recruited 2,656 more men than make our quota towards the 500,000 at which the Government is aiming. That is a fact of which, as an Albertan, I am reasonably proud, and that is a fact for which I find the explanation, if it is to be found, in this: That the people of Alberta are not so much concerned where the sugar is being got for the troops, as they are in getting the troops and beating the Germans."

### **PROUD OF WHAT GOVERNMENT HAS DONE.**

"I listened with very great care to the statement of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister from beginning to end. I listened to it calmly, and as I listened **I was proud to be a citizen of Canada, and proud to be a citizen of Canada because of what the present Government of Canada has done in connection with this war.** There were certain things which loomed up before my mind as I listened to that statement, and **the first thing with which I was impressed was the magnitude of the burdens and the responsibilities which came upon the Government of a small portion of the British Empire with the swiftness and the suddenness that we know characterized the commencement of this war.**"

"It was my privilege, as it was my honor, at the beginning of the war, and as it has been more than once since, to express what was my clear conviction then, and what is equally my clear conviction now: **that the head of this Government and the Government itself and the majority of its supporters were seized at once with the importance of the issues, and bent their whole energies to the task of contributing a proper quota on the part of Canada to the successful prosecution of the war.** That was my conviction then and it is my conviction now, and I am clear in my own mind that history will record—whatever may be the petty political fortunes of party in this country, at the next or any other election—I am confident that the impartial historian will record that my right hon. friend who leads the Government has from the day the war-cloud burst, kept a single eye to the winning of the war, and has not been led aside or diverted from that purpose by any small motive or any small consideration whatsoever."

"The next thing that loomed out in front of me as I listened to the statement of the Prime Minister was the point that was referred to by the right hon. gentleman himself, and that was the tremendous task which had fallen upon a large and momentarily increasing number of the staff of the Militia Department, and of the loyalty and devotion—which often, as the Prime Minister said, must have carried their nerves to the



racking point—win which every member of that staff must have done his duty. The Government and the staff of the department had splendid support from another consideration, which was raised by the Prime Minister, **because the spirit that animated the Government and the spirit that animated the staff of the Militia Department was, and is, I believe, Sir, the spirit of the great majority of right thinking people in this country.**"

### **OUR MAGNIFICENT HERITAGE.**

"There was another thought that came to me, and it was the thought of gratitude, that though we have had this stupendous task thrown suddenly upon our Government, and especially upon the Militia Department, and though our people have had to make sacrifices and share in the carrying of the burden, **yet we have such a magnificent heritage in this country, and our liberties are so protected by the flag under which we live, that none of us within this land has had to go with one meal less, none of us has had to go with any fear as to what is coming to us or coming to the Empire.** I am grateful that I am in that position. I am thankful to the men at the front who are achieving this for us, and this, after all, is the greatest consideration. That is the greatest consideration that was raised in the Prime Minister's speech. We all echoed every sentiment he expressed as he recalled the way Canadians stood in the breach a year ago, and the way they are prepared to stand to-day, and shed the last drop of their blood for the flag, for the Empire, for the world's civilization. **In the presence of these considerations I may be allowed to express a doubt whether the points that have been raised in discussion are calculated to help in the accomplishment of that great task—whether they are not calculated to hinder.** If there had not been grounds for criticism the Government would not have been human. Humanity is fallible."

"It is said that the man who does not make mistakes never makes anything. **If the Government had not gone into this war with the intention of making something, of helping to achieve the victory that we know is coming; if they had not gone into it animated by the spirit that makes for victory, they might not have made mistakes, but they would not have helped much in bringing about that victory.** We are told, "You cannot make omelets without breaking eggs." It is one of the misfortunes of war that it brings greater profits even to the farmers, to the sons who are left at home while the other sons are sacrificing all they have at the front. Mistakes? Of course. And critics? Of course. Said Byron:

"A man must serve his time to every trade  
But censure—critics all are ready made."

### **STANDS BEHIND SIR ROBERT BORDEN.**

"For my part, in such a crisis in the history of our Empire and of the country, as a private individual citizen who happens



of Dr. Clark cannot lightly take issue with the policy of a majority of the members of his party. It may be taken for granted that Dr. Clark did not speak out so clearly and so boldly without the most serious commune with himself."

"The editorial following this was written before Dr. Clark made his speech, which in such a striking manner defines the true "Liberalism" at this time of stress. Dr. Clark was one of the men we had in mind when we said that The Free Press did not stand alone in its declarations of freedom, and we know whereof we speak when we say that Dr. Clark does not stand alone among the members of his side of the House in deploring the partisan attitude and the petty and irresponsible criticism that has marked the utterances of a certain number of gentlemen on the Liberal benches. It is time these men spoke out like Dr. Clark. It is time that the little coterie of bitter political partisans were informed in no uncertain way that the Liberal party is not going to be dominated by them."

"Enough evidence has been taken already by the Meredith-Duff Commission to warrant the belief that the Prime Minister was right when for weeks he refused to permit a public investigation into the operations of the Bertram Shell Committee; enough facts have been produced to vindicate Sir Sam Hughes and the members of the Shell Committee, whatever may be subsequently shown to have taken place among outsiders in the sharing of commissions; enough testimony has been put in to indicate that the bitter speeches of Mr. Carvell and Mr. Kyte in Parliament were unwarranted except for petty partisan purposes."

"That we have been losing our sense of proportion is evidenced by the fact that, nine days after Mr. Kyte had made his sensational charges and the Prime Minister had ordered an enquiry by Royal

Commission, the British War Office sent an honorarium of \$15,000 to Col. Carnegie, the expert mind of the Bertram Shell Committee who had already received a salary of \$12,000. The kind of man that the Maritime Province partisans were attacking so viciously is shown by Colonel Carnegie's desire to give up a salary of \$12,000 and work for nothing for the Imperial Munitions Board, rather than accept \$75,000 a year from an American firm; and by the War Office's refusal to accept Col. Carnegie's generous offer and its action in increasing his salary to \$25,000 instead."

"The Royal Commission of enquiry was made necessary because Messrs. Carvell and Kyte had so unsettled the public mind that a full expose of the facts was the only remedy. But it is being shown that Messrs. Carvell and Kyte were making unwarranted attacks upon Sir Sam Hughes and the Bertram Shell Committee. There were commissions—graft if you please. That is one of the prices of war. But it was not apparently shared by Canada's public servants. There were profits, too. General Bertram and his three manufacturing associates made \$42,000,000—and turned it all over to the War Office when they were legally entitled to keep every cent of it for themselves. There were probably errors of judgment also in the placing in a great hurry of orders totalling \$390,000,000."

"Dr. Michael Clark has led the way to a general national enlightenment. There is no longer reason for men in the Liberal party to swallow their personal opinions and allow themselves to be led by men with whom they do not agree. There is no longer reason for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to permit a few of his too-zealous followers to spoil the splendid reputation that a life of work in the Imperial cause has given to him. Dr. Clark speaks for the great multitude in Canada, a multitude that has hitherto been silent but disgusted."

"And Dr. Clark's message may as well be taken to heart by men on the Conservative side of the House. The administration has not had the whole-hearted support of its followers to which it was entitled; the ministry has been embarrassed instead of helped by them. And, on the other hand, there has not been that disappearance of the patronage curse throughout the constituencies which we had reason to expect."

"There has not been such a pleasing sign in Canada for many a day as Dr. Clark's magnificent speech. It should have a most beneficial effect on public opinion, it should lead the Meredith-Duff commission to hurry through

their work, and it should clear the way for an even more vigorous effort on the part of the administration and Canada generally toward the successful prosecution of the war."

"The shell enquiry has stalled a lot of important war work. The commission should hurry through its enquiry and release the men who are compelled to sit day after day in the court room while the enemy knocks at the gates and the Empire calls for active service."

"Hats off to Dr. Michael Clark, M.P. of Red Deer, Alberta, statesman, patriot, the Canadian man of the hour."





